

SOUTH BEACH URBAN DEVELOPMENT, SITE REMEDIATION AND VALIDATION REPORT

756. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Housing and Works representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage

Further to question on notice No. 627 lodged on April 1 2003 regarding the South Beach Urban development and the Site Remediation and Validation report -

- (1) Is the Minister aware that groundbreaking activities occurred in the northern section of the site prior to the lodging of the Site Remediation and Validation report?
- (2) What action has the Minister taken to ensure that regulatory departments require developers to lodge the necessary reports on time?
- (3) Does the Minister consider it acceptable that significant activities can occur prior to the DoE assessing the required reports?
- (4) Is the Minister's refusal to table a copy of the Site Remediation and Validation report an example of the Government's 'right to know' commitment?
- (5) If the Site Remediation and Validation report contains information relating to public health threats arising from contamination, does the Minister still consider the report to be confidential?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

The Minister for the Environment and Heritage has provided the following response:

- (1) Yes. Decommissioning of site infrastructure, remediation and validation works took place at the site from November 2002 to March 2003, with the submission of the Site Remediation and Validation report to the DoE on 4 April 2003.
- (2) I am unclear as to what you mean by "lodging necessary reports on time". There are no timeframes set for lodging reports regarding contamination. In relation to the Metropolitan Regional Scheme Amendment No. 1008/33, the scheme specifies sequences of events rather than the setting of timeframes.
- (3) The works were undertaken in accordance with a Site Investigation and Management Plan which was approved by the DoE in 3 September 2002. Completion of the works, the Site Remediation and Validation report was submitted to the DoE, the purpose of which was to validate the remedial works undertaken. Remediation and validation reports are always submitted after the site works are complete.
- (4) Due to the confidentiality of the reports, copies of all site reports are available through application via the Freedom of Information officer at the DoE. Alternatively, you may wish to approach the developer to request a copy of the report.
- (5) I am reluctant to respond to your hypothetical question however, I will say that the information submitted to the DoE to-date suggests that soils at the former Wesfarmers Woolstore site do not appear contaminated as a result of previous activities on the site. Groundwater beneath the site is still under investigation.